

CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN

Unless otherwise indicated, the following statewide data about the characteristics of children in the two placement types that are the subject of this report has been obtained from the CWS/CMS database and covers the period January through December 1999. The data was retrieved for all children placed with a FFA or in a non-relative FFH placement during this time, with four subset populations: children in each placement type who were supervised by a child welfare services (CWS) agency or by a probation department.

AGE BY SUPERVISION TYPE

Children in the 0-4 years age group comprise the largest group placed in either a FFA or FFH by a CWS agency, and are most often placed in a FFH. Virtually no probation-supervised placements are made of children less than 12 years old. Most probation-supervised placements to FFAs/FFHs are of children 15-18 years of age, with over 60 percent of probation placements made to a FFA.

Figure 1

AGE BY SUPERVISION TYPE (continued)

Regardless of supervision type, the percent of children in each age group who are placed in either a FFA or FFH are about the same. For instance, the data indicates that for children 9-11 years of age, 9 percent are placed in FFAs and 7 percent are placed in FFHs. Children age 0-4 years placed in a FFH constitute the single largest age group with 17 percent of placements.

Figure 2

ETHNICITY BY PLACEMENT TYPE

The total number of children placed in FFAs and FFHs during January through December 1999, was 64,611. Of that number 18,822 children were African-American, representing 29 percent of the total. Caucasian children were 36 percent of the FFA/FFH population, equaling 23,127. The total number of Latino children in FFA/FFH placement was 19,596, or 30 percent. Asian/Pacific Islander children represented 2 percent of the placements in FFAs/FFHs, at 1,520 children. The total number of Native American children in FFA/FFH placement was 945, or approximately 1.5 percent.

Figure 3

African-American children in a FFA placement represented 28 percent of all children placed in a FFA. Caucasian children in a FFA placement were 34 percent of the total; Latino children were 34 percent; Asian/Pacific Islander children were 3 percent; and Native American children were 1.3 percent.

ETHNICITY BY PLACEMENT TYPE (continued)

For children placed in a FFH, ethnicity percentages were somewhat similar. African-American children were 30 percent, Caucasian children were 38 percent, Latino children were 28 percent, Asian/Pacific Islander children were 2 percent, and Native American children comprise 1.6 percent.

Data from the fourth quarter 1999 extract of the CWS/CMS presented in the Performance Indicators Caseload Updates prepared by the University of California, Berkeley, shows the following total **foster care** population by ethnicity.

Figure 4

ETHNICITY BY PLACEMENT TYPE (continued)

The January-December 1999 figure representing African-American children residing in a FFA or FFH is lower than the percentage of African-American children represented in all types of foster care placements. Conversely, the percentage of Caucasian children in either a FFA or FFH is higher than the percentage represented in the overall foster care population. The percentages for the remaining ethnicities (Latino, Asian, and Native American) are similar to those for the total foster care population, with a smaller number of children in each category.

The most recent statistics from the State of California, Department of Finance, show statewide ethnicity data for 1999 indicating African-Americans represented 7 percent of California's population, Caucasians 51 percent, Latinos 30 percent, Asian/Pacific Islanders 11 percent, and Native Americans less than 1 percent.

A comparative analysis of the total **statewide** ethnicity percentages to the ethnicity percentages of children placed in FFAs and FFHs reveal an overrepresentation of African-American children in foster care placements, FFA placements and FFH placements.

Figure 5

ETHNICITY PERCENTAGE COMPARISON State, Foster Care, FFA and FFH

ETHNICITY	State %	Foster Care %	FFA %	FFH %
African-American	7	36	29	34
Caucasian	51	30	34	36
Latino	30	31	34	26
Asian/Pacific Islander	11	3*	2	2
Native American	Less than 1	*	1	1

*Represents percentage of Asian/Pacific Islanders and Native Americans combined.

GENDER BY PLACEMENT AND SUPERVISION TYPE

Gender as a percentage of placements is essentially equal for each placement type. Males represent approximately 48 percent of placements in a FFH, and approximately 49 percent in a FFA; females represent the remaining 52 and 51 percents, respectively.

Both CWS-supervised males and females constitute 99 percent of the males and females placed in a FFH; the remaining 1 percent was supervised by Probation.

In FFAs, CWS-supervised males represent 97 percent of the male population, with 3 percent supervised by Probation. Ninety-eight percent of females in FFAs are supervised by CWS, with 2 percent supervised by Probation.

Figure 6

AGE BY GENDER AND PLACEMENT TYPE

CWS/CMS data available regarding the age and gender of children placed with a FFA or in a FFH is presented for two points of time. Figure 7 displays gender by age in both placements as of July 1, 1999. Figure 8 displays that same data as of January 1, 2000.

Figure 7

AGE BY GENDER AND PLACEMENT TYPE - July 1, 1999

AGE IN YEARS	FFA		FFH	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
< 1	392	396	725	707
1 - 2	1,214	990	1,344	1,233
3 - 5	1,812	1,680	1,686	1,586
6 - 12	4,284	4,066	3,467	3,520
13 - 18	2,237	3,036	1,920	2,643
Sub-total	9,939	10,168	9,142	9,689
	Total FFA	20,107	Total FFH	18,831

TOTAL CHILDREN BOTH PLACEMENTS = 38,938

For all age groups in either placement, children 6-12 years of age constitute the age group with the most placements at 15,337 children, or 39 percent of all children in both placements. For both placement types, children less than 1 year was 6% of total placements; children 1-2 years old was 12%; children 3-5 years old was 17%; children 6-12 years old was 39%; and, children 13-18 was 25%.

At 42% of all FFA placements, 6-12 year-old placements were more than under-6 year-old placements (32%) and 13-18 year-old placements (26%) in FFAs. For FFHs, 6-12 year-old placements were 37% of children placed there, with placements under 6 years old accounting for 39% and 13-18 year olds at 24% of FFH placements.

AGE BY GENDER AND PLACEMENT TYPE (continued)

Figure 8

AGE BY GENDER AND PLACEMENT TYPE - January 1, 2000

AGE IN YEARS	FFA		FFH	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
< 1	354	384	742	704
1 - 2	1,205	1,058	1,415	1,274
3 - 5	1,864	1,673	1,670	1,539
6 - 12	4,467	4,326	3,522	3,588
13 - 18	2,349	3,210	2,006	2,752
Sub-total	10,239	10,651	9,355	9,857
	Total FFA	20,890	Total FFH	19,212

TOTAL CHILDREN BOTH PLACEMENTS = 40,102

For all age groups in either placement type, children 6-12 years old constitute the age group with the most placements at 15,903, or 40% of all children in both placements. For both placement types children less than 1 year was 5% of total placements, a slight decrease from July. The percentage of children 1-2 years old remained stable from July at 12%. Likewise, the percentage of children 3-5 years old remained stable from July at 17%. The percentage of children 6-12 years old slightly increased from 39% in July to 40% in January 2000. Similarly, the percentage of children 13-18 years old had a slight increase from July at 25% to 26% in January 2000.

At 42% of all FFA placements, 6-12 year-old placements were more than under-6 year-old placements (32%) and 13-18 year-old placements (27%) in FFAs. For FFHs, 6-12 year-old placements were 37% of children placed there, with placements under 6 years old accounting for 38% and 13-18 year olds at 25% of FFH placements.

AGE AT FIRST PLACEMENT

All FFH and FFA Placements

Figure 9

AGE AT FIRST PLACEMENT - ALL FFH AND FFA PLACEMENTS

Age in Years	FFH		FFA	
	# of Children	Percent	# of Children	Percent
0-4	16,673	51.26	11,404	35.54
5-8	6,734	20.70	7,907	24.64
9-11	3,469	10.67	4,996	15.57
12-14	3,072	9.45	4,361	13.59
15-18	2,550	7.84	3,407	10.62
TOTAL	32,524		32,087	

Figure 9 indicates that for all age groups in either placement type more children experienced their first placement between the ages of 0 and 4 years of age than at any other age. The majority of children in a FFH were first placed between 0-4 years, at 51 percent; the remaining 49 percent of FFH children were placed when older than 4 years of age. However, for FFA placements, the majority of children were older than 4 years when first placed, at 64 percent.

Figure 10

AGE AT FIRST PLACEMENT - CWS-SUPERVISED PLACEMENTS

Age in Years	FFH-CWS		FFA-CWS	
	# of Children	Percent	# of Children	Percent
0-4	16,664	51.69	11,325	36.26
5-8	6,732	20.88	7,903	25.30
9-11	3,456	10.72	4,975	15.93
12-14	3,006	9.32	4,157	13.31
15-18	2,354	7.30	2,861	9.16
TOTAL	32,238		31,232	

AGE AT FIRST PLACEMENT (continued)

Consistent with the data for all placements to a FFA or FFH, more children supervised by CWS in these placements experienced their first placement between 0-4 years of age. Furthermore, the majority of CWS-supervised children in a FFH were first placed between 0-4 years of age. Also consistent with all placements, the majority of CWS-supervised children in FFAs were older than 4 years when first placed.

Figure 11

AGE AT FIRST PLACEMENT - PROBATION-SUPERVISED PLACEMENTS

Age in Years	FFH-Probation	Percent	FFA-Probation	Percent
	# of Children		# of Children	
0-4	2	0.73	10	1.28
5-8	No data given	No data given	2	0.26
9-11	10	3.66	21	2.68
12-14	65	23.81	204	26.02
15-18	196	71.79	546	69.64
TOTAL	273		784	

In contrast to the CWS placement data, probation-supervised children experience their first placement later in their lives, with the majority of placements first occurring between 15 and 18 years of age regardless of placement type.